(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) Review/updation of labour laws is a continuous process in order to bring them in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs of the economy.Taking into consideration the requirement of productivity, competitiveness and employment generation and to update the provisions of labour laws, a need has been felt to make amendments in certain labour legislations and steps initiated accordingly. Thus, amendments in certain labour legislations viz. the Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 and the Cine Workers' Workers Fund Act, 1981 were recently carried out. The Tea District Emigrant Labour (Repeal) Act, 1970 and the Industrial Disputes (Banking Companies) Act, 1955, which had become outdated, have been repealed.

Meanwhile, the Second National Labour Commission has submitted its report to the Government. The Commission has made a wide ranging recommendations on various facets of labour viz. review of laws, social security, women & child labour, skill development, labour administration, unorganised sector etc. The Ministry has held consultations and interactions with the workers' representatives, employers' organizations, experts professionals etc. The recommendations of the Commission were also discussed in the 38th Session of Indian Labour Conference held on 28-29 September, 2002 and in a National Seminar on Unorganised Sector Workers held on 7-8 November, 2002, also in a Tripartite Committee meeting held on 18–19 February, 2003 and in the Consultative Committee Meetings of the Ministry of Labour held on 07-02-2003 and 30.04.2003. Lately, the recommendations have again been discussed in the 39th Session of Indian Labour Conference held on 16-18 October, 2003. Such steps are being taken to bring about a workable consensus for implementation of the recommendations of the Commission as well as to concretise the views of the Government. However, given the procedure involved, it is not possible to specify the time limit.

Immigration to developed countries

316. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing immigrants from India to the developed countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the number of such immigrants for the last three years, year-wise, country-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether Government have initiated any step for active regulatory and facilitating role in economic emigration to developed countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof, including the basic training to be given to the potential unskilled immigrant labour; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to regulate middle men, facilitating illegal immigration?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) The Government does not maintain such specific data. However, the number of persons granted emigration clearance for employment abroad during the last three years are as follows:

2002: 3.68 lakhs

2001: 2.79 lakhs

2000: 2.43 lakhs

(c) and (d) The Government had introduced the Emigration (Amendment) Bill, 2002 in the Lok Sabha on 21.11.2002 which has been referred to the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare. It is proposed, through the Amendment Bill, to set-up a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council and establish an Indian Overseas Workers' Welfare Fund. A compulsory Insurance Scheme has been notified on 13.11.2003 and emigrations procedures simplified.

(e) The Government deals strictly with illegal immigration. All such cases are referred to the Police authorities for booking the unregistered recruiting agents. All State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have also been requested to instruct the Police Stations to keep a strict vigil on the activities of middlemen engaged in illegal emigration.

Per-capita income of country

317. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what was the per-capita income during 1995-96 and the per-capita income at present, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that per-capita income in the country has fallen drastically during the last five years;